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From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 12:28 PM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH); Tan, Zhi (DPH)
Subject: testing for GHB and the status of the Drug Lab HPLC

This is a status update on the analysis for GHB. Recall that the HPLC for this analysis has suffered several setbacks since this fall. We initially lost the signal for our standards. After several attempts of likely solutions pursued in-house, the failed detector was sent out for a contract refitting with an optical unit. Simultaneously, the pump went over to the Environmental side, where the pump gaskets were replaced. After both these units were returned, the HPLC was re-assembled mid-June.

Immediately upon its re-assembly, the HPLC was tested and the previous level of signal for the standard was attained. As fresh preparations for all materials for the test were being made up, the HPLC computer crashed July 6. Mike Norman, from computer support, diagnosed the possible issues and tried out several solutions; a new mouse, a new keyboard and a circuit board from a similar computer, each to no avail.

Mike says this leaves only a hardware failure in sending program information up to the screen. Ironically, without any booting up, he cannot diagnosis how deep the damage is. Indeed, Mike feels that we may not be able to get replacement support from HP computers, the computer is so old.

Mike suggests our only solution is to get another computer at the XP level or above. Furthermore, he notes that we will need Agilent IT service to install the Chem Station we need to operate this unit.

I am currently holding 30 GHB samples, the earliest of which dates back to September 2009.

Any computers available?